

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04608 101022Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2048

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4608

EXDIS

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CONSIDERATION OF DEVELOPMENT FUND AT
ALL-PARTIES MEETING

REF: PRETORIA 4542

1. DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE REGIME AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND HAS REGULARLY BEEN RAISED. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS RECOGNITION OF THE INCREASINGLY SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND REALIZATION THAT A SIGNIFICANT BOOST IS GOING TO BE NECESSARY TO GET THINGS ROLLING AGAIN.

2. GRAHAM AND I HAVE REPLIED TO THESE QUERIES THAT THE ZDF COMMITMENT GIVEN EARLIER APPLIED TO THE ANGLO AMERICAN PROPOSAL OFFERED ON SEPTEMBER 1. SINCE THAT PROPOSAL WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE PARTIES, WE WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION AGAIN IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE NEW SITUATION WHEN IT BECOMES CLEAR. IN THE EVENT OF A SETTLEMENT THAT INVOLVES ALL PARTIES, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE A DISPOSITION TO HELP. WE ARE NOW
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04608 101022Z

STUDYING DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE REGION AND WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

3. IN THE EVENT OF AN EARLY ALL-PARTIES MEETING, THEREFORE, THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS WILL WANT TO HAVE IN MIND WHAT THEY CAN SAY ABOUT A COMMITMENT OF FUNDS

TO ASSIST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY
IN THE EVENT A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED. THE SUBJECT IS
LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY SMITH EITHER IN PRIVATE OR
PLENARY SESSION.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

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